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INGALLS - Congressman Jerry Moran today announced that Katie Payne of Ingalls has concluded a congressional internship in his Washington, D.C., office. Payne is a 2001 graduate of Ingalls High School.

"I am proud that some of the best and brightest Kansas students choose to spend their summer serving fellow Kansans," Moran said. "Katie was able to work on projects that benefit the people of our state. I appreciate her efforts."

Payne graduated summa cum laude in 2005 from Kansas State University, where she received a bachelor's in political science and Spanish with a secondary major in international studies. At K-State, she was a Leadership Studies Ambassador, Lou Douglas Lecture Series intern and Phi Beta Kappa member. She also studied abroad in Ronda, Spain, for one semester. Payne was a recipient of the Robert C. Byrd Scholarship, Putnam Scholarship, Reba L. Cobb Memorial Scholarship, and Jon David Wagner Memorial Scholarship.

Payne continued her education at the University of St. Thomas in Houston, Texas, where she completed graduate studies in education to receive her teacher's certificate. She is currently a 7th grade Language Arts teacher for Teach for America in Houston, Texas. She plans to pursue a law degree with a joint master's degree in international relations or Spanish studies beginning in the fall of 2007.